

April 20, 1993

JOINT STATEMENT BY TREASURY SECRETARY LLOYD BENTSEN
AND UNITED STATES ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- We deeply regret the terrible tragedy that occurred in the Branch Dividian compound outside Waco yesterday. It is a shocking end to a long siege, something that goes beyond immediate comprehension.

The President has asked us to conduct a joint investigation of the entire episode to try to prevent anything like this from ever happening again. We have instructed our staffs to meet today and complete the details of how the investigation will be undertaken, and to ensure a full, complete inquiry. In this process, we will involve independent, professional law enforcement officials to assist us in this review.

We want to cooperate fully and completely with all congressional inquiries to make sure there is a thorough and independent review of all our actions and that we are fully accountable to Congress and the American people.

We are deeply saddened by the terrible loss of lives, including the ATF agents and those who died yesterday.

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